



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG GAZETTE

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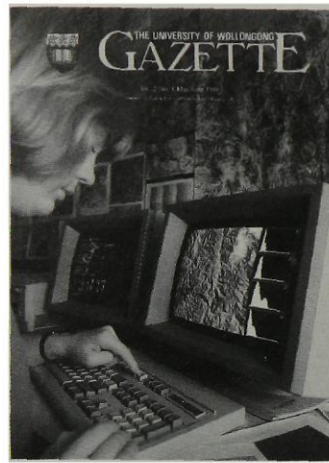
# Satellite imagery from LANDSAT 6 for environment monitoring

**S**ATELLITE imagery is being used at The University of Wollongong—in the Department of Geography—for a variety of environmental monitoring projects. One project was the detailed mapping of the effects of a large fire in Kosciusko National Park in February 1988. The fire burnt a large area of rugged forest country in the Byadbo region, close to the Victorian border.

The imagery chosen for this project is from the satellite LANDSAT 6 which has on board a sensor, called the Thematic Mapper. Thematic Mapper imagery has a ground resolution of 30 metres and records reflectance from the earth's surface in the visible wavelengths right through to the mid and thermal infrared wavelengths.

It is this resolution which has achieved mapping not only of the fire boundaries but also the delineation of narrow corridors within the fire which escaped burning.

These areas are particularly important as a refuge for animals during fires. They also act as reservoirs of plant species which later contribute to the regeneration of the burnt



*Above and front cover: signal from LANDSAT 6 on screen*

areas. By using various combinations of the spectral information within the image, it has been possible to delineate areas which sustained burns of different severity.

The effect of control burning, in comparison with the effects of wildfire as well as the

effects of other fire control methods, will also be analysed. This project has been partly funded by the South-east Region of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

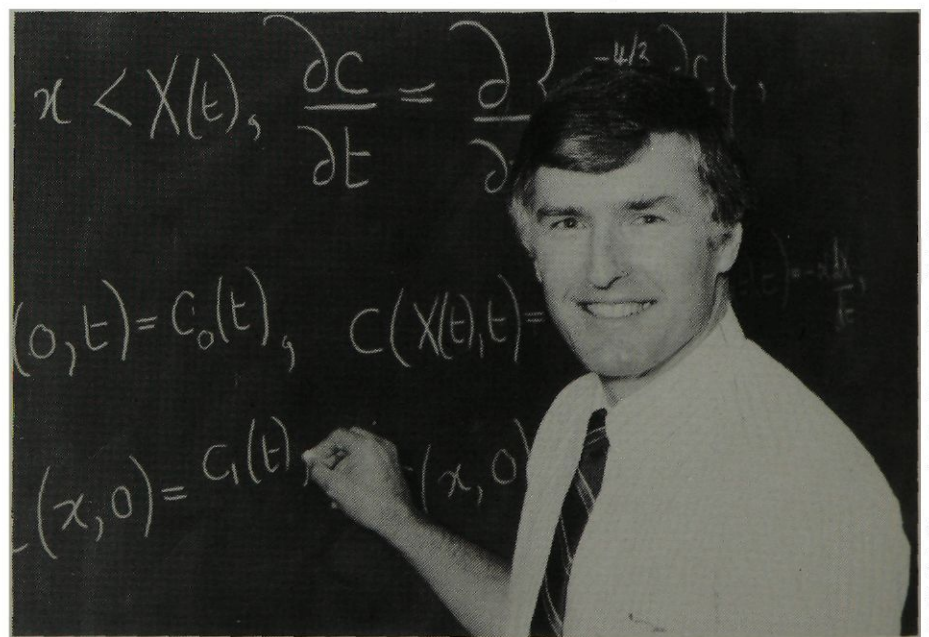
Other environmental projects undertaken by the Remote Sensing group in the Department of Geography in the South Coast region are habitat mapping in the Nadgee Nature Reserve in south-east NSW; monitoring the regeneration of vegetation in the wake of the fire in Moreton National Park in October 1986; and vegetation mapping in the O'Hares Creek catchment and the development of a program to monitor and measure changes in disturbed sites.

Other areas for which remote sensing is being used in the Geography Department are in the Willandra Lakes World Heritage region, where the effects of different sheep grazing pressures on the semi-arid vegetation are being monitored. Geographic mapping in the Bungle Bungle region in the Kimberleys; mapping the patterns of Aboriginal fires in the East Kimberleys; and the mapping of coral-reef structures in the Cocos Islands.

## Outstanding academic achievement by mathematician recognised with Wollongong's first Personal Chair

**T**he first University Chair at The University of Wollongong has been awarded to Dr J. M. Hill of the Mathematics Department. A University Chair, known as a Personal Chair in many universities, is a professorial position created for a particular person as recognition of outstanding academic achievement.

Professor Hill has had a formidable record of research achievements in various areas of applied mathematics. One of these areas is



*Professor Jim Hill*

finite elasticity, which is concerned with the behaviour of highly deformable materials, such as rubber or those with rubber-like properties. Such materials are widely used as components in machinery, and it is of practical and commercial interest to be able to predict the performance of such components. Another one of these areas is diffusion, which concerns the mathematics of physical processes such as melting, solidification, and the flow of liquids in porous media.

Professor Hill's work is characterised by a high degree of insight into the mathematical formulation of many physical processes of

interests to applied mathematicians, engineers and scientists, and by an ability rapidly to investigate the mathematical consequences of such formulations and to translate their conclusions into physical terms.

Professor Hill received his honours degree from the University of Queensland in 1969 and also his PhD in 1972. He came to The University of Wollongong in 1975 after a year at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education and two years as a post-doctoral fellow in the University of Nottingham. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Queensland in 1988.

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# Environmental pollution and health

*Joint community-  
university research*

A study into the relationship between environmental pollution—particularly lead pollution—and public health is under way by members of the Departments of Geography and Chemistry in The University of Wollongong. Funded by a grant of \$60,000 from the Department of Health, the study is co-operative in other ways, in that also involved are the Health Promotion Unit of the Illawarra Area Health Service and the Pollution Task Force of the Healthy Cities, Illawarra.

The Pollution Task Force includes members of the local council, members of the University community, as well as members of local council, State Pollution Control Commission and representatives of industry.

Members of the University involved are Dr Ann Young from Geography, Task Force Chairperson, Dr Phil Crisp and Mr Trevor Lewis from Chemistry, who is responsible mainly for the analysis of the samples, Dr Ted Bryant and Dr Hilliary Winchester from Geography who are responsible largely for the sampling frame and the statistic analysis. All these aspects will be carried out in co-operation with staff from the Health Promotion Unit.

The study will look at the relationship between lead levels in soil and lead levels in the blood of very young children. The work is being carried out in response to community concern, especially in the Port Kembla area, and to the known persistence to lead in soils as a result of fall-out from atmospheric pollution.

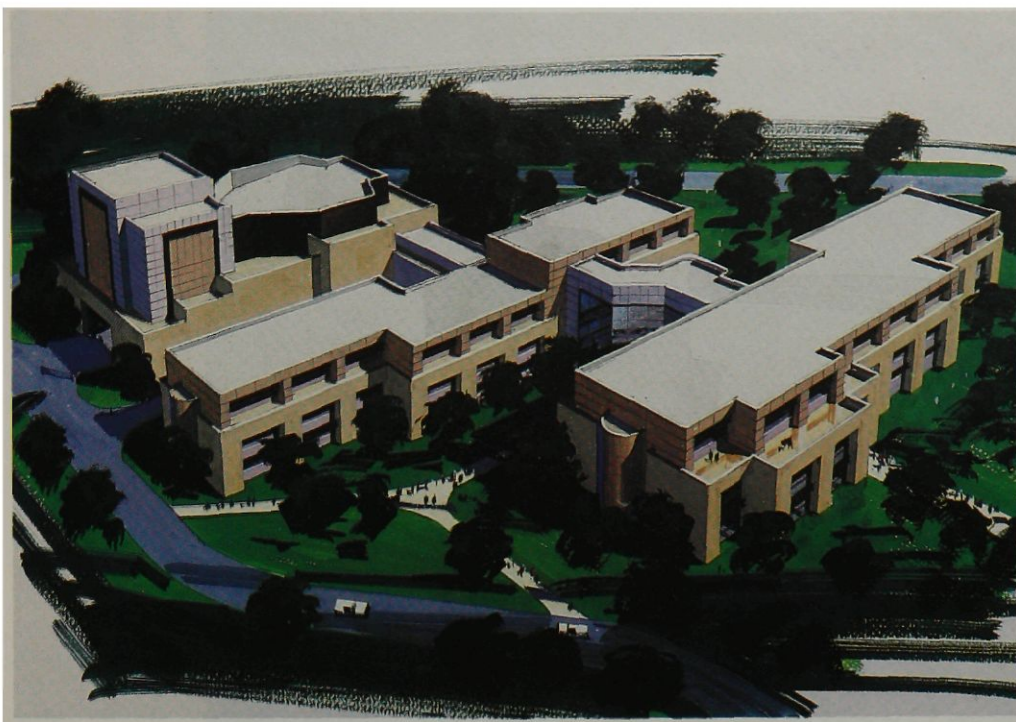
## The Gazette

The *Gazette* is published by The University of Wollongong in May, July, October and December.

The content is chiefly concerned with University research but other University news and developments are given a place, too.

The journal is distributed to all graduates of the University, and to the Friends of the University as well of course to staff. Copies are also sent to certain government instrumentalities and the appropriate section of the media.

## Work begins on new building



*Above is an artist's impression—from the architects Graham, Bell and Bowman—of the now-under-construction general-purpose building approved by the Commonwealth Government for the University. Work began last month (April). Cost of the building will be \$8,679,000 of which \$1,851,000 is allocated for this year. The building is designed to meet the University's need for additional academic room space and common teaching areas. Some specific-use facilities are included in the planning.*

... and a pointer to tomorrow ...



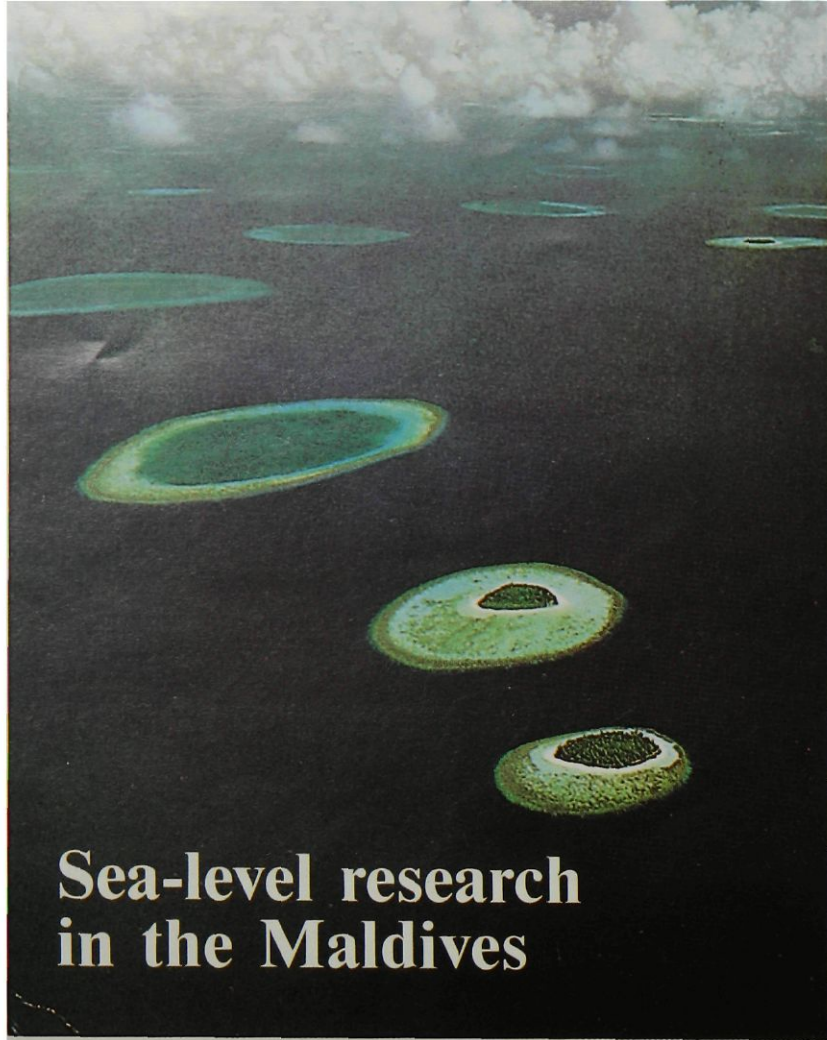
*This second architect's drawing from Graham, Bell and Bowman shows the proposed conference centre and hotel for which a feasibility study was completed by Peat Marwick Hungerfords in October last year. As designed, the complex will include extensive conference space and hotel accommodation of 160 rooms. Current project costs are estimated at \$30 million*

The methodology to be used will be based on a large study in the Port Pirie area of South Australia. There is a large lead smelter there, and a far more severe lead problem than we experience in the Port Kembla and Wollongong region.

There will also be a strong emphasis in the study on the relationship between pollution

and community health. A major part of the funding will go towards the person responsible for informing the community about the results. This is not, therefore, simply an academic research exercise. It is very much in the spirit of the Healthy Cities Program—which is to provide the community with information they can then use: healthy choices about their lifestyles.





## Sea-level research in the Maldives

**C**oral atolls are ring-shaped reefs in the middle of tropical oceans. They shelter a lagoon in their centre, while around their perimeter there are small sandy islands composed entirely of the broken, skeletal fragments of coral, molluscs, algae and other organisms living on the reef. Because they are such low-lying, unconsolidated islands, they are particularly threatened by inundation and erosion if the sea level rises, as it is predicted to do, as a result of the greenhouse effect.

The Republic of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean is composed of more than 20 coral atolls, with over a thousand small sandy islands, none rising more than a few metres above sea level. It is one of the most vulnerable of all nations if the sea should rise rapidly. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, of the Maldives, is well aware of the danger, and has expressed his concern to the United Nations.

Dr Colin Woodroffe, of The University of Wollongong's Department of Geography, who has undertaken research on a number of Pacific and Indian Ocean atolls, was invited to the Maldives in February by the Ministry of Planning and Environment, as a part of President Gayoom's initiative. Dr Woodroffe was able to travel extensively through the islands. He surveyed transects across many of the islands that he visited, providing the first detailed information on height and topography. The highest point that he surveyed was a sandy ridge 3.5m above high water mark; many of the villages are less than a metre above high-water mark. The Maldives are lower-lying and have far less

extensive cemented coral conglomerate deposits than most coral atolls. This appears to be because they lie close to the equator, and thus rarely if ever experience severe hurricanes. Although extremely destructive to atolls when they pass over them, hurricanes also serve to build up coarse rubble ramparts that give these other atolls some protection from higher water levels.

Dr Woodroffe has written a 64-page report to the Maldives government entitled *Maldives and Sea-level rise: an environmental perspective*, advising on a program of environmental monitoring and management. He has indicated that coral atolls are in a delicate balance with sea level. The surface form of the atoll and of the reef islands has developed as sea level has risen, through the growth of live coral. The sediment that comprises the islands is continuing to be produced by the breakdown of dead coral and associated organisms. A healthy reef therefore may have the potential to keep up with a gradual rise in sea level.

Dr Woodroffe suggests that the sea level has changed very little relative to the Maldives, over the past 3000 years, and that this stability has enabled the islands to build up. More importantly, Dr Woodroffe's preliminary analysis of growth bands in a coral specimen that he brought back from one of the islands indicates that there have been fluctuations, but negligible overall increase, in water levels over the past 20-30 years. On these remote islands, where no tidal records have been kept, further analysis of water levels from the corals themselves is likely to become increasingly important in the reconstruction and monitoring of sea-level change.

## Yet another 'first' for Wollongong?

**T**here would appear to be no limit to the range of skills provided by the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Section in the University. As an example, the section in 1976 began making furniture, in a modest kind of way, in a small workshop in a corner of one of its buildings. But gradually the demand for its furniture grew. In response to this it stepped up its activity in the area. It was then encouraged to branch out into a production-style joinery, making furniture suitable for campus needs. Now, today, there is a superbly equipped workshop at Campus East and the unit is producing office-type furniture as good as any both in terms of design and manufacture.

The Maintenance Section has found it is able to produce personalised furniture, designed for a specific area and use, at an acceptable cost. In some cases, items were manufactured and supplied in a shorter time than would have been needed by an outside company.

The range of furniture being produced includes desks for professors, general staff and students, workstations, conference room tables and cupboard furniture, bookshelves, glass-fronted noticeboards, pinboards, whiteboards, video trolleys, display and advertising stands, indoor garden boxes and settings, ergonomic furniture, computer furniture, pigeonhole units and essay boxes, personal locker units, filing units, drawer units, lollipop lights around the campus, floor-to-ceiling cupboard and shelving units, material covered room dividers.

Specialised items of furniture can be designed and manufactured using the eight trades including 25 permanent staff and 11 casual tradesmen and unskilled workers within the section. User equipment can also be installed and, in some cases, equipment can be designed and manufactured. Any costs involved would be charged against the user's account.

If you want to know more about this intriguing development, as to service, maintenance and supply, contact Eric Young, Maintenance Supervisor, on ext 3995.

... all this from the Campus East workshop ...





# A 'FIRST' FOR AUSTRALIA

## University Microwave Applications Research Centre signposts a pathway for technology

The symposium staged at The University of Wollongong by the Microwave Applications Research Centre in February could not have been more successful. The 120 delegates were drawn from a wide variety of disciplines—Chemistry, Physics, Engineering and industry, and from the CSIRO. Speaking at the close of the three-day conference, the Minister for Minerals and Energy, Mr Neil Pickard, commended delegates for tackling today's energy problems, and urged that there be no time lost in finding the answers in this challenging research area. 'The outcome of this symposium,' he said, 'will be to blend the sciences to make a better world.'

On a highly topical note, the Minister expressed his interest in a paper on treating sewage sludge with microwaves, the more so because the resulting material could possibly be used as manure to increase farm production.

In his keynote address, *Microwaves, the Energy Form with a Future*, a US delegate, Irving Chablinsky, from IJC Technologies Incorporated, said that microwave energy made possible operating-cost and energy reductions, together with reliable product quality.

But Mr Chablinsky's address was wide-ranging—touching on facets of microwave energy for a whole new range of applications. The 20th century, he said, is classed as the technological age, in which from 1940 technology has doubled every ten years. Key to profitable growth, he said, lay in selecting that significant technology which offers substantial rewards when exploited.

Microwave energy, he declared, is that technology. 'Microwave energy is a most effective and economically viable tool for the utilisation of material processing. Microwave-energy technology is a focused tech-

nology that will have significant impact on a broad industrial front; in a sense it is a strategic technology.'

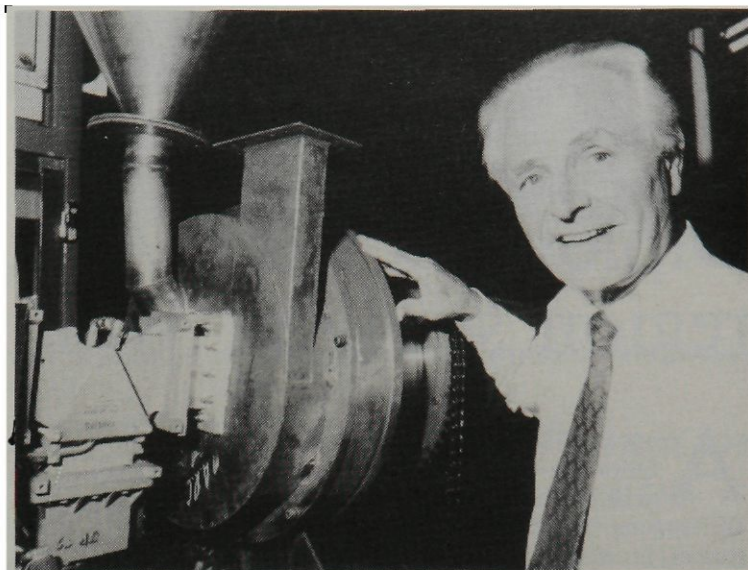
He went on: 'Among the applications for which microwave energy is today being applied are in such seemingly unlikely fields as retreading tyres in a process designated Atmospheric Microwave Continuous Vulcanisation. Among the benefits in this field, as compared with other methods, are a manpower saving of one man day/shift = three man years at \$US20,000/yr = \$60,000/yr.'

Energy savings were calculated as showing a saving of \$36,000/yr and other sundry savings between \$5,000 and \$10,000/yr.

Dealing with the use of microwave energy in the ceramics industry, Mr Chablinsky made the point that it represented the first major breakthrough to enable a change in the basic process used in drying, calcining and firing.

The application of microwave energy to every facet of the operation from the raw material (clay, powder, pigments and the rest) to the finished product (sanitary ware, china, electronics, even ceramic engines) renders possible high production yields, reduced costs and improved quality and quality control.

Ceramics, he said, had all the criteria for using microwave energy. In the eighties feasibility studies were conducted into just about every material used and every facet of



Professor Howard Worner, Head of the Microwave Applications Research Centre

the cycle of turning raw material into a finished product.

Concluding the section of his address dealing with ceramics, Mr Chablinsky said: 'We are at the threshold of the use of microwave energy in the many high-energy requirements in ceramics. With the ability to control manufacturing processes for improved yield, lower operating costs, increased productivity and as a means of obtaining high temperatures, microwave is a technology whose time has come.'

He went on: '... microwave energy enables operating costs reduction from 20 to 30 per cent, energy reductions of at least 50 per cent, higher quality and reliable products and a greatly improved environment.'

Asking the seminar to 'dream with him', he spoke of the total ceramic internal-combustion engine with the elimination of a liquid cooling system (water jacket, radiator, water pump, coolant, controls, meters, fan belts and the rest), the substitution of alcohol in place of petroleum.

Summing up at the end of the conference, the Director of the Microwave Applications Research Centre in the University and symposium organiser, Professor Howard Worner, CBE, commented that much of the success of the conference had been a result of the number of different disciplines involved. 'The symposium,' he said, 'has fostered the partnership between MARC, Industrial Microwave Applications Pty Ltd, Lucas Heights Research Laboratory of the CSIRO, Illawarra Electricity and a wide range of industries.'

The symposium received full-page coverage in *Energy Focus*, the publication of the Department of Minerals and Energy.

### Statistical/ mathematical consultancy

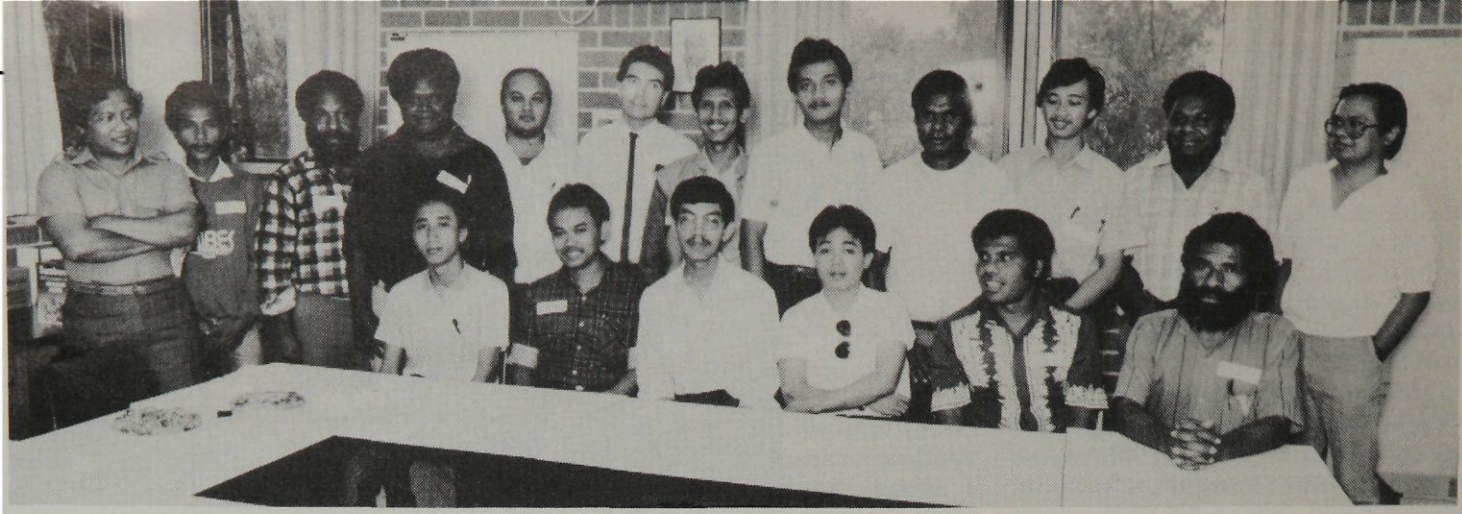
Under the auspices of the Board of Research and Postgraduate Studies, the Mathematics Department has introduced new consulting arrangements for the University, particularly its research community, in Session 1. The service continues and extends consulting advice offered to the University by the Mathematics Department for many years. Those seeking advice should

telephone Professor David Griffiths, on (042) 27 0845.

While it is anticipated that statistical consulting will constitute the major part of the service, the Mathematics Department will continue to offer advice and collaboration in other areas of Mathematics, especially Computational and Analytical Applied Mathematics, including Operations Research. The Department will not provide a computer programming service; Computer Services provide such a facility, although on a necessarily limited basis.

A number of ground rules applies to those seeking advice. These will enable (near) optimal use of a scarce and valuable resource:





*The career diplomats from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, together with four students undertaking other courses*

## Diplomats from Asia-Pacific region study at Wollongong

A group of 14 mid-career diplomats from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea arrived at The University of Wollongong on March 14 to embark on studies in Master of Arts (International Relations).

The diplomats constitute part of the inaugural intake into the course, which was established this year in response to a request from the Papua New Guinea Department of Foreign Affairs and with support from relevant agencies in Australia including the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB).

Head of the Department of History and Politics, Professor Ted Wolfers (who has been consultant to a number of government

agencies in Papua New Guinea, including the Department of Foreign Affairs), and a Lecturer in Economics, Dr Jim Guest (who has worked in the National Planning Office and the Bank of Papua New Guinea), went to Port Moresby last year to discuss the proposed program with officials. They had the full support of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, who was Director of Education in Papua New Guinea before independence.

This is the first time an interdisciplinary program in International Relations, with emphasis on management and practice, has been undertaken by any Australian university. The degree is intended to provide opportunities for graduates of diverse disciplinary

backgrounds to develop their academic understanding and professional skills in the field of international relations, broadly defined. The program is expected to be especially useful to students with relevant, prior, professional experience, including—but not only—diplomats.

The program focuses on international politics, economics, management, and law and diplomatic practice, in particular, but allowing both for specialisation within the program as well as for the inclusion of area studies, languages and other relevant subjects, in accordance with students' needs.

The Papua New Guinea government has agreed to make publications and other resources available.

As well as for career diplomats, the course will be useful to people in the private sector—executives and future executives of companies and bodies such as chambers of commerce with connections and interests overseas.

## Unfavourable impact of Australian flag shipping on balance of payments

The Centre for Transport Policy Analysis at The University of Wollongong caused a stir in economic and industrial circles when it released a major study of the impact of Australian flag shipping on Australia's balance of payments.

The major finding was that under present commercial conditions (and under the most likely future conditions) increased Australian flag participation in overseas trades is unlikely to provide significant direct foreign exchange gains, and might well imply a substantial direct loss.

This finding conflicts with numerous past estimates which have tended to overstate the shipping industry's contribution to the balance of payments, primarily as a result of inappropriate methodology.

The study examined 'representative routes' (with ships crewed at Maritime Industry Development Committee—MIDC levels) in each of the three main sectors of the shipping industry serving Australia—

- \* the liner trade between Australia and northern Europe;
- \* the shipment of coal between Australia and Japan; and
- \* the Australian-Arabian Gulf tanker trade.

In the liner trades calculations for the Australian-northern European liner trade suggest that an Australian flag vessel would not, in present conditions, contribute positively to the balance of payments. The study estimates a consequent loss on the current account of \$4.7 million or approximately 16 per cent of the gross revenue earned by the vessel. This is due, in part, to the fact that, given the assumed stream of costs and revenue, the vessel would operate at a loss (\$10.2m annually).

In the dry bulk trades, calculations for the Australian-Japan coal trade suggest that an Australian flag vessel would not contribute positively to the balance of payments at the freight-rate level selected. The study estimates a very small annual net foreign exchange loss

of \$10,000, equivalent to -0.1 per cent of the gross revenue earned by the vessel. This should be regarded as a 'neutral' result: replacement of a foreign vessel by an Australian flag ship would have no significant effect on the balance of payments in this trade.

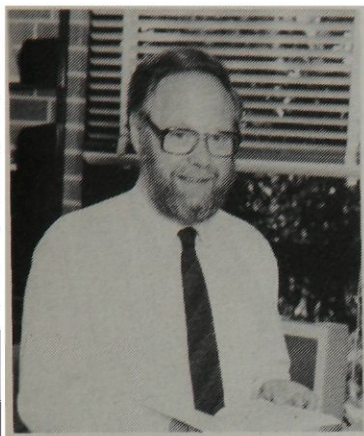
In the tanker trades calculations for the Arabian Gulf-Australian tanker trade suggest that an Australian flag vessel would make a negative contribution to the balance of payments. The study estimates an annual net foreign-exchange loss to Australia of \$1.4 million, equivalent to 14.2 per cent of the gross revenue earned by the vessel. Moreover, given the assumed stream of costs and revenue, it is estimated that the vessel would incur losses of approximately \$4.9 million annually.

In all three trades the study suggests that an Australian vessel would operate at a loss under most plausible market conditions.

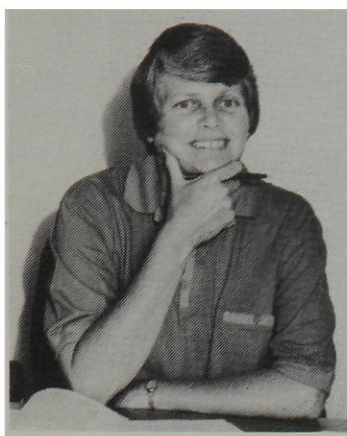
Copies of the study report, *Australian Flag Shipping and the Balance of Payments*, by Dr Keith Trace, Stephen J. Meyrick and Dr Ross Robinson, are available from the Centre for Transport Policy Analysis at the University at a cost of \$35.



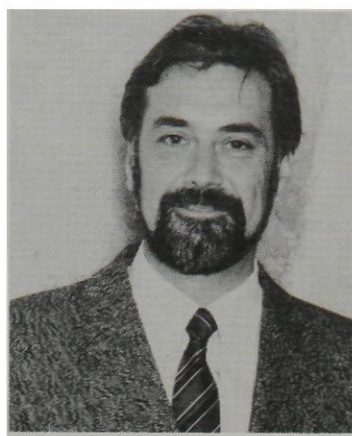
## Welcome to new faces on campus



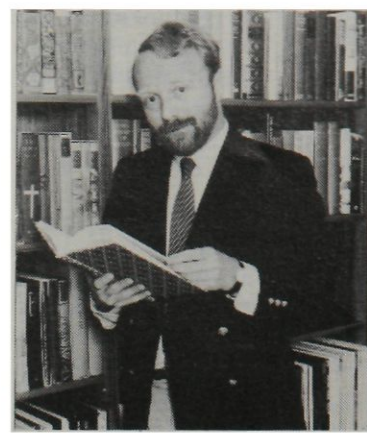
Professor Moloney



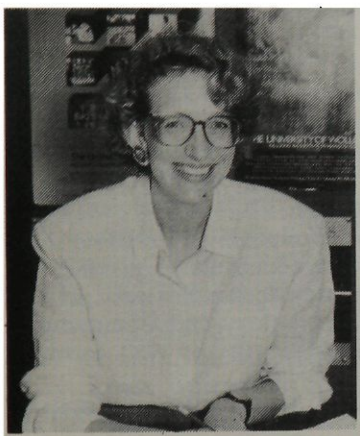
Professor Gamble



Professor Gerrard



Mr Meadows



Ms Lawson

**N**ew heads for the Departments of Languages and Legal Studies, and for the Key Centre for Mines, as well as a new Director of the International Office, Planning and Marketing Branch, took up their positions in the University at the beginning of the 1989 academic year.

The four are Professor Brian Moloney, Languages, Professor Helen Gamble, Legal Studies, Professor Charles Gerrard, Key Centre for Mines, and Mr Eric Meadows, International Office.

Professor Moloney was awarded a Master of Arts degree and his PhD from Cambridge University.

He has been a lecturer at the University College of Wales and a senior lecturer at the universities of Leeds and Hull. In 1975 he was appointed Professor of Languages at Hull, serving as head of the Italian Department until he became chairman of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. During 1985 he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Moloney's range of publications includes three books. His recent research has been on the development of the Italian novel since the 18th century.

Professor Gamble is, of course, well-known for her work as Chairman of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission. She in fact gave up her work on the Commission in order

that she might establish a Department of Legal Studies at Wollongong.

Her degrees were awarded by the Australian National University, where she was until comparatively recently senior lecturer in law.

Her research interests include Law Relating to Children, Property Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Family Law. She has published widely on a number of subjects.

Professor Gerrard's Key Centre for Mines is operated on a joint basis by Wollongong's Departments of Geology and Civil and Mining Engineering and the University of New South Wales.

Professor Gerrard is a graduate in Engineering of the University of Melbourne (1961) and he gained his Master of Science degree from the University of New South Wales in 1964. He returned to Melbourne for his PhD in Geomechanics in 1969.

The aim of the Key Centre for Mines is to improve the (already high) standard of excellence of teaching and research associated with the minerals industry at the universities of New South Wales and Wollongong.

A former diplomat, Mr Meadows held posts in India and Israel before joining the Department of Employment, Education and Training. There he worked in international education and, in particular, in policy on overseas students. Before joining The University of Wollongong he was Secretary to a Federal Government taskforce which examined Australian educational representation overseas.

Amanda Lawson has been appointed Head of the Planning and Marketing Branch. A resident of Stanwell Park, Amanda graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1976 with a BA, majoring in English Literature.

Since then she has worked in publishing and travel, with a period teaching English in Italy. She moved to Australia in 1982 and established a small importing business before becoming Executive Director of the Crafts Council of NSW in 1986.

## Illawarra Information Technology Centre opens

**A** centre to train and retrain long-term unemployed in the computer, electronics and communications industries was formally opened on campus in February. Designated the Illawarra Information Technology Centre (ITeC), it was opened by Mr Peter Duncan, MP.

Initial major sponsor of the project was the Wollongong City Council. When council funding was approved last year, Dr Ken King, of the Illawarra Technology Centre and the Department of Industrial and Administrative Studies within the University, worked closely with a range of local organisations to develop the infrastructure from which ITeC emerged. Dr King is now managing director.

A board of directors has been established from 12 locally or locally represented organisations.

Besides its aim of training and retraining, ITeC also provides open-access services and business-incubation facilities.

It is in fact now part of a national Network of Information Technology Centres.

ITeC is managed by Ms Robyn Steele. Chairman of the Board is Professor Michael Hough from the Faculty of Commerce in the University.

*Manager of ITeC, Robyn Steel, with Mr Peter Duncan, Federal Minister for Employment and Education Services*





## Added string to University's technological bow

**W**ith the launch on April 3 of the Centre for Information Technology Research (CITR), an entrepreneurial arm of The University of Wollongong, information technology in Australia entered a new era.

CITR combines the experience of senior management in the information and communications industries with the resources of The University of Wollongong to offer research into the design and use of information technology in Australia.

The Centre undertakes contract research and consulting for industry and government, specialising in hardware design, software development, systems implementation, evaluation and impact assessment. It also conducts management, professional and technical training courses.

CITR adds another string to the bow of Wollongong's rapidly expanding technological base, joining 'centres of excellence' in engineering data, computer training, microwave technology and robotics, among others, at ITC (Uniadvise) Ltd, the University's technology consulting arm.

CITR operates on a fully commercial basis, linking industry with highly qualified University staff in departments such as



Board of Management of CITR. From left are Mr Ian Carter, Professor Hugh Bradlow, Mr Robert Somerville, Professor Ken McKinnon, Mr Ken Douglas and Mr Ian Reinecke

Computer Engineering, Information Systems, Computing Science, Telecommunications, Economics, Management and Information Technology and Communication.

Mr Robert Somerville—former chairman of Telecom and OTC, current chairman of the ABC and British Aerospace Australia—is chairman of the Centre for Information Technology Research. He is joined on the Board of Management by director, Mr Ken

Douglas, former NSW State Manager of Telecom; Professor Hugh Bradlow, head of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Wollongong; Mr Ian Carter, general manager, ITC (Uniadvise) Ltd, University of Wollongong; Professor Ken McKinnon, Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong; and Mr Ian Reinecke, of the Information Technology and Communication Program, University of Wollongong.

### Appreciation— Japanese style

Intricately carved and elaborately coutured dolls, encased in glass, have made a welcome addition to the decor in the rooms occupied by the Vice-Chancellor and the two Deputy Vice-Chancellors. The dolls are gifts from Japanese students studying at the Wollongong English Language Centre in The University of Wollongong. The students expressing grateful thanks are from Fjimigaoka Gaknen University.



### Americans here, too

The University this year has also attracted a number of students from the USA. The Americans will be spending either one or two sessions in Wollongong as part of their Study Abroad programs.

## Wollongong scholars to study 'Euroaustralians'

**A** group of academics at The University of Wollongong has been commissioned by the Agnelli Foundation of Turin, Italy, to carry out a major research project on Italians in Australia. The Foundation is one of Italy's major private research-funding bodies, and is financially supported by the Fiat Motor Company. The sum involved is \$120,000 over two years.

The project will look at the history of Italian migration to Australia, the situation of people of Italian origin in Australia today, and the role of Italians in helping to shape Australian society.

The research team consists of Stephen Castles and Caroline Alcorso of the Centre Multicultural Studies, Ellie Vasta of the Department of Sociology and Gaetano Rando of the Department of Languages. In addition a bilingual research officer will be employed, and scholars from other universities will be invited to participate.

Professor Castles said, 'It will not just be historical work. We want to analyse the way Italians are helping to shape Australian culture and lifestyles. We will get a group of Italo-Australian and Australian writers together, hold a symposium and write a book called *Euroaustralians: the Contribution of Italians to Australian Society*. We are able to do this type of work because we are a multi-

cultural University, with many descendants of migrants on our staff.'

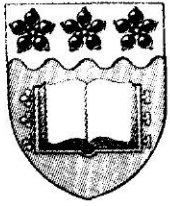
This commission follows the engagement of Dr Bill Cope and Mary Kalantzis of the Centre for Multicultural Studies by the OECD (Paris) to carry out the Australian part of a six-section study on multicultural education. It shows that other countries are realising the relevance of Australia's experience of migration and ethnic diversity for their own problems. Multiculturalism may turn out to be an export success.

### Wollongong Academic to Membership of ASTEC

**P**rofessor Ron Johnston, Director of the Centre for Technology and Social Change, has been appointed a member of the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC).

ASTEC is chaired by Professor Ray Martin, former Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, and is composed of senior industrialists and academics. It advises the Prime Minister on a range of issues including the adequacy of scientific and technological activities in Australia, new ideas in science and technology likely to be of national importance, and the practical development of scientific discoveries.





# ... AND THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

## Now here's the good news

by Michael Arrighi

A degree in communications is only the beginning of the hard work. There are fewer career paths which are so highly competitive—especially in television, where even the slightest downward trend in audience ratings can topple electronic thrones.

One of the more invigorating areas is news presentation; but it is also one of the least appreciated because of its familiar, daily regularity. This, of course, may be attributed also to the apparent ease with which broadcasters such as Mary Franks can appear night after night completely unruffled.

Behind the scenes, Mary has to ensure that everything is just right. Not just with her news bulletins, but with her personal appearance. When the little red eye on Camera One is staring right into her face, there is no time for moods or tantrums. That smile comes easily because it is such a natural characteristic of her everyday communication.

Still in her early twenties, Mary has made admirable progress from the time she was first employed with 2MCE-FM Bathurst while a BA student at Mitchell CAE. She has since gained an honours degree from The University of Wollongong.

From Bathurst she was engaged by WIN TV 4 as a cadet journalist, from which stage she has progressed to high-profile, daily news presenter for that channel. Because her parent channel is now part of the Channel 9 network—one of the Big Three—her exceptionally bright personality is coming over to a



much extended audience, something which has broadened her career scope considerably.

Mary has often been asked if her tertiary education was a springboard to her career. She answers that her decision to continue

tertiary education after a lapse of a year was not necessarily part of a career plan. . . . 'Holding an honours degree in English Literature doesn't make me better or more qualified than the next journalist, but the task of preparing a thesis, for example, undoubtedly improved my research and writing skills.'

Mary sees the role of our university changing to adapt to a more competitive job market. No longer can it be simply an institution of 'higher learning', somehow separated from its nearby community. She emphasises: 'The university has become an information source for the area.'

A newscaster has limited time for hobbies and recreational interests. But she does manage the occasional bike ride or aerobic session. She is also toying with returning to study for a masters degree.

In her field, she would like to be further involved in producing documentaries, and would like to work overseas for further experience.

Mary Franks has not chosen the easy career path. However, given her present track record, there is no doubt she will one day be added to that long list of Wollongong's famous sons and daughters.

By the way, those who are involved in this exciting field will be pleased to hear that a Graduate Program in Journalism is being currently blueprinted. This proposal is yet another initiative for distinguishing the University.

### New look 'Graduates'

You've guessed it! We've changed our image!

The graduate magazine will no longer be separate, confusing in identity or a paltry bi-annual.

Our new integrated style demonstrates the University's developing awareness of the importance of its graduates, and communicating *with* them. Let's emphasise the two-way flow—we want to hear from you and you . . .

Although there are fewer pages they will be regular, appearing in each of the four issues a year of the *Gazette*, hopefully containing as much by being more succinct.

### Friends move house

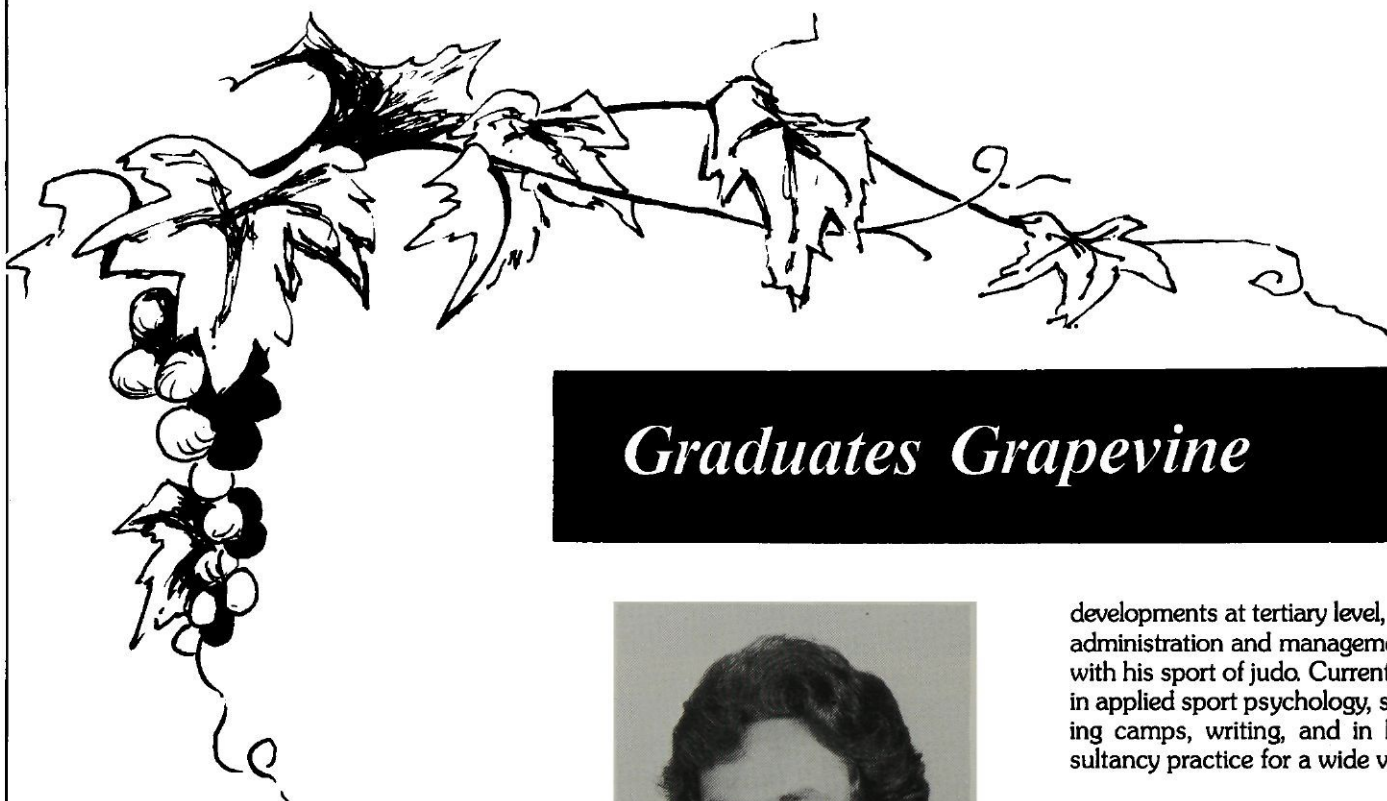
Giles Pickford's relocation to the Australian National University as publicity officer, has heralded a number of changes in the Friends

of the University of Wollongong Pty Ltd.

Physically the organisation is now located within the Planning and Marketing Branch of the University's administration. The Friends will retain its independence while, by its proximity, gaining the advantages of co-ordination resources and administrative support.

The new executive officer will have been appointed by the end of April.





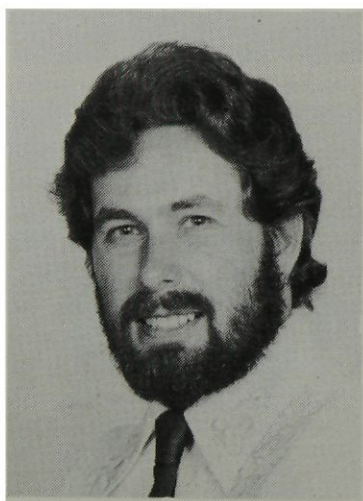
## Graduates Grapevine

1978

**Greg Butler, BE(Civil)**

Political aspirations continue to flourish in Greg Butler. He is the endorsed Australian Democrats' candidate for the Legislative Assembly in the electorate of Throsby, in the Southern Highlands, for the next state elections. Having contested several state and federal seats Greg's enthusiasm for the political battlefield continues unabated. He has spent several years as a member of the New South Wales State Executive of the Australian Democrats and a term as State Vice-President.

Union matters are also taken seriously, as Greg is in his third two-year term as a Federal Councillor of the Association of Professional



*Greg Butler*

Engineers Australia and he is a committee member of the Public Transport Group within this engineering association. He is a Fellow of the Permanent Way Institution and a Justice of the Peace. Sounds a bit like a political blurb?

Greg has been employed by the State Rail Authority since he left Wollongong University. He spent a year each at Goulburn and Moss Vale, then several years at Wagga Wagga. Greg returned to the 'Gong' for the Illawarra electrification project and worked with other graduates and friends—Malcolm Kerr, D. J. 'Jack' Harrison, Mark Bell, and A. C. 'Charlie' Wilson. Greg's present position is District Engineer at Moss Vale.

On the family front, Greg married Jan in 1978, and they live with their two dogs and cat on a 100-acre property near Colo Vale, in the Mittagong area. They are developing the property in anticipation of lots of kids—of the angora goat stud variety.

developments at tertiary level, lectures in sport administration and management courses, and with his sport of judo. Currently he is involved in applied sport psychology, specialised training camps, writing, and in his sport's consultancy practice for a wide variety of sports.

1984

**Kin-kwok Dennis Au, BA**

Dennis has his ear to the ground in Hong Kong. He is an audiologist with the Society for the Deaf.

After Wollongong, Dennis sampled a number of educational institutions on his way round Australia, picking up a Postgraduate Diploma in Audiology from the University of Melbourne in 1986 and the following year a Masters from Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia.

On his return to Hong Kong, Dennis, having studied in English, had to overcome some linguistic barriers. He needed to learn Chinese sign language, and develop Cantonese speech tests.

Australia's famous cochlea implant or 'bionic ear' is being performed in Hong Kong. This is an exciting time for Dennis as he is testing and assessing the suitability of patients for the operation. Although the work is hard, he is rewarded by being able to assist some deaf people who would otherwise not be able to hear.

Dennis wants to be remembered to friends and lecturers at Wollongong University and would welcome correspondence from anyone curious about Hong Kong or its deaf people. You can reach Dennis at

327 Castle Peak Road,  
6th Floor,  
Kowloon,  
Hong Kong.

### Publications and books

My gratitude to all those who have returned the response card and especially the people who have included a photograph. We are keen to prepare a list of graduates and their publications. If you have had a paper or book published, please send the relevant information (with a copy, where a review is feasible) to—

Bev Ring  
Friends of University,  
PO Box 1144,  
Wollongong 2500.

1982, 1987

**James David Sheedy, BA(Hons), MA(Hons)**

Jim Sheedy has a long history of involvement in sport. Along with his competitive and coaching background in judo he has been involved in various areas of sports administration. This has included duties with the Australian Sports Medicine Federation, course

1985

**Ali Kilic, MSc(Met.)**

I love letters from overseas. It reduces navel gazing, broadens horizons and demonstrates the ever-widening sphere of international



contact by the graduate ambassadors of our university.

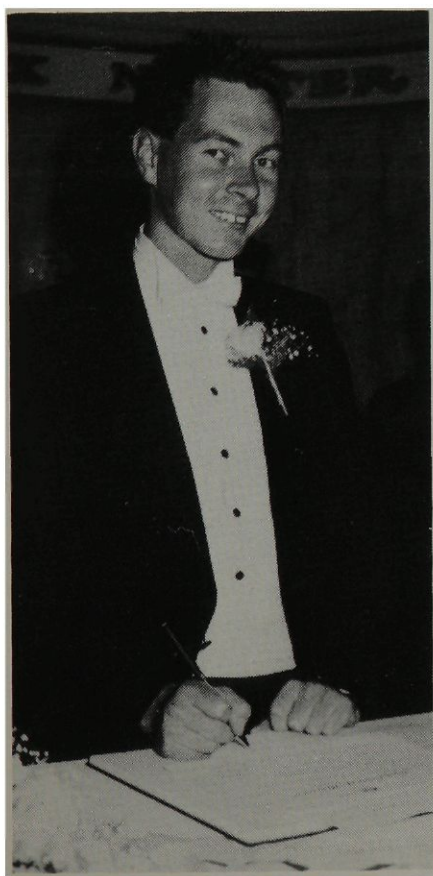
From Turkey, Ali writes that he is manager of a foundry and heat-treatment plant, producing industrial machine tools. He is missing Australia a great deal and is keen to maintain contact. His address—

Taksan A.S.  
incesu  
Kayseri  
Turkey.

## 1986

### Matthew Paul Wand, B.Math(Hons), PhD

Texas, land of the ten-gallon hat, is currently home to Matthew. Winner of the University Medal at Wollongong, Matthew then completed his doctorate at the Australian National University, Canberra. His present position is Associate Professor in Statistics at Texas A. and M. University, USA. Congratulations on such rapid promotion.



Mathew Wand

## 1987

### Anka Peters, B.C.A.

Anka writes:

After finishing the Bachelor of Creative Arts at Wollongong University I was employed by the Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI), Illawarra branch, on a part-time basis, as a community artist. The program was funded by the Adult Education Board. The venue was the Warilla Living Skills Centre. Participants were primarily sufferers of mental illness and their families and friends. The aim was to provide these people with a constructive means of expressing their feelings and ideas through the use of visual media. The large mural, pictured here, was designed by the



Anka Peters with her mural (see below). Picture courtesy 'The Illawarra Mercury'

participants and painted on to three wood panels, hinged together. It is based on the following ideas.

*Right panel*—represents the happy, sunny, 'no problem' side of life: lots of bright sunny days, recreation, relaxation, flowers.

*Left panel*—portrays the low, dark, depressing side of life: thunder, rain, 'no entry or jobs' in industry, lack of housing, many problems.

*Middle panel*—the waterfall symbolises the flow of life, people are just a drop in a fast-flowing river and some come crashing down (the mentally ill often are very depressed and can't cope with the fast pace of living in today's society). The hands represent the sufferers reaching up for help, acceptance in the community, a willingness to overcome their problems. The scales show how we all lean to the right (happy) or sometimes to the left (depressing). The 'hand of justice'

determines which way. The mentally ill continually have a hard struggle to keep their lives balanced between the two sides.

The rainbow links all panels together.

The mural was displayed at Shellharbour Square during Mental Health Week in September 1988, and at the travelling 'Bicentennial Show' in Wollongong in October as part of the Health Promotions Unit display. The mural continued to be displayed at other venues for the remainder of the year.

*Postscript*—Anka was also involved with the Youth Group, painting a mural at the Koonawarra Community Centre. This year she has been again employed as Arts worker with ARAFMI, this time funded by the Australia Council. Her task is to stimulate sufficient artwork by members, and to co-ordinate an exhibition in Mental Health Week, September 1989, to expand community awareness.

### FIT appoints Wollongong graduate as new registrar

Mr Michael Halls is the new Registrar of the Footscray Institute of Technology, one of the fastest-growing Australian higher-education institutions, currently with more than 5,500 students.

Mr Halls has been with the Institute for five years and has recently held the posts of Deputy Registrar and Acting Registrar. At 33 Mr Halls is probably one of the youngest Registrars in the country.

Mr Halls has had a lengthy and successful background in administration, when, even as a student, he assumed an administrative role with the Student Representative Council at Wollongong University.

### Newest Alderman is one of ours

When Giles Pickford resigned from Wollongong City Council, the shortcomings of the new no-ward election system became apparent. No provision had been made for this eventuality. A city-wide election was held and Stephen Whitehead was victorious, filling the most expensive seat on record. Stephen graduated from Wollongong University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree.



Michael Halls



# Chancellors oppose cuts to governing bodies

Chancellors of six NSW universities have expressed deep concern at reports that the Minister for Education, Dr Terry Metherell, proposes to reduce, drastically, the size of university governing bodies.

It is understood that consideration is being given for legislation to reduce the membership of each governing body to about 12 in number, half of whom would be appointed by the Minister. In some cases this would mean a reduction of membership by more than 50 per cent.

The Chancellors stressed the importance of a broad diversity of membership from the general community and adequate membership by staff, graduates and students on governing bodies.

At a time when there are changes in the role of universities, with extended responsibilities for governing bodies, it is especially important

that the wide contact between the general community and the academic community should be maintained and that the experience accumulated by present governing bodies should not be lost.

Although the Chancellors acknowledge that considerable benefits will come from the current reappraisal of universities, they believe it is important that the independence and the traditional values of universities should not be sacrificed for administrative or economic expediency.

The Chancellors point out that in addition to their work on governing bodies, the members also contribute knowledge from their particular areas of expertise to the management of universities, individually and by membership of various committees. Drastic reductions would significantly undermine this important source of advice to universities, and

would limit beyond a critical point this essential contribution to the universities' administrative structures.

The reductions proposed in the numbers of staff and student members on governing bodies would reduce opportunities for governing bodies to obtain detailed first-hand knowledge of the views of staff and students.

The Chancellors also pointed out that membership of governing bodies is unpaid and that members give dedicated and valuable service to universities, and at no cost to the public purse.

The Chancellors do not normally make joint public statements. That they have come together to make a statement on this matter indicates the depth of their concern.

Signatories to the statement were Sir Hermann Black, AC, Chancellor, University of Sydney; The Hon Mr Justice R. Hope, AC, CMG, Chancellor, The University of Wollongong; Professor R. N. Johnson, AO, Chancellor, University of Technology, Sydney; The Hon Justice M. Kirby, CMG, Chancellor, Macquarie University; Dr R. Robertson-Cunninghame, AO, Chancellor, University of New England; The Hon Mr Justice G.J. Samuels, AC, Chancellor, University of NSW.

***This is an important issue for all graduates and their organisations as, if the proposal goes ahead, convocation representation will also be diminished. Please, therefore, write to both Dawkins and Metherell to register your objection to this attempt to undermine the independence of tertiary institutions.***

## Peranbin—literary sharing

The small advertisement in the *Illawarra Mercury* of March 7, 1987, read, "Literature asks to be shared in discourse." Persons interested in founding association for free studies in literature phone . . . Having devised and advertised the original idea our Graduates Group's Secretary, Audrey Heycox, although busy with post-graduate studies and the care of a large family, quickly found two interested people, both of whom were graduates in the field of literary studies.

Meeting at Audrey's home the three explored her idea of forming an association through which the rewards of sharing in literary discourse could be brought to those who had not previously experienced it, as well as to those who have.

Then, upon discovering another trio of eager readers, a formal Inaugural Meeting was held on April 3 where an Association Structure was devised and a name chosen for the group. In the desire to convey in the title the concept of sharing and of inter-personal experiences the name *Peranbin* was selected, this being a South Australian tribal word for 'share'.

Friendship through shared study has 'caught on' and the Peranbin Association for Literary Studies has almost trebled its membership since then. Meetings are held twice a month at Dapto. There is also an expression of interest in the establishment of a branch at Nowra.

As Founder President Audrey has helped guide the selection of a wide range of authors and their works, all of which have offered a

great deal of interest to members and greatly encouraged and facilitated self-directed learning.

Membership of Peranbin is free of entry requirements. The only requisites are a love

of books and an enquiring mind. Members are always glad to welcome new readers: indeed, a growing membership is the best way of saying 'thank you' to Audrey for her inspiration, and for her dedication to an ideal.

### RESPONSE CARD

Tell us where you are, what you're doing . . . and please send a picture—black and white if possible and with good contrast.

Name (please print):.....

Address: .....

..... Postal Code:..... Country.....

Home phone:..... Work phone:.....

Degree(s) held:..... Year(s) of Graduation:.....

Notes and news: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(Use extra paper is necessary.)

I am happy for you to publish these details.

Please send to:

Bev Ring,  
Friends of Uni. of Wollongong  
P.O. Box 1144,  
Wollongong 2500.

Signature .....

Date .....